

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

Policy No.: I.C.4.PO.001

Subject: Birth to Three Services

Section: Services and Supports: Children Services

Issue Date: March 31, 2005

Effective Date: March 31, 2005

Revised: November 5, 2010

Approved: /s/ Peter H. O'Meara/KdP

A. Policy Statement

The Department of Developmental Services, as a lead agency, shall establish and maintain a statewide birth to three system of early intervention services pursuant to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The statewide system shall be comprehensive, coordinated, and multi-disciplinary; and shall include interagency participation.

1. Annually, the lead agency shall file an application for funds under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) with the federal Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs that describes how the program will be administered and operated in Connecticut in compliance with IDEA.

Any proposed changes to the most recently approved application requires a 60-day period of public comment prior to re-submission.

2. Direct services for infants and toddlers with disabilities shall be provided through two main sources: contracts between the Department of Developmental Services and municipal and private providers and the Early Connections program (Unified School District #3) directly operated by the department. One additional source of direct services is the Board of Education and Services for the Blind's program for young children under an Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Developmental Services.
3. The Birth to Three System shall develop a Birth to Three procedures manual, to be updated annually, that guides the public and private provider of comprehensive services in the operation of the program.
4. All programs shall receive a copy and a CD of the manual which is also available on the Birth to Three website. Revised procedures shall be sent to the programs annually
5. All providers shall be monitored for compliance with the written procedures and the provision of quality services delivered to children and families under the Birth to Three Accountability and Monitoring processes.

B. Applicability

This policy shall apply to children from birth to 36 months of age who are not eligible for special education and related services pursuant to sections 10-76a to 10-76h, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes and who need early intervention services. The children must be experiencing a significant developmental delay as measured by standardized diagnostic instruments and procedures, including informed clinical opinion in one or more of the following areas: cognitive

development, physical development, including vision and hearing, communication development, social or emotional development or adaptive skills, or diagnosed as having a physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay.

C. Definitions

Lead agency means the Department of Developmental Services, the public agency responsible for the administration of the birth to three system in collaboration with the participating agencies.

Participating agencies includes, but is not limited to, the Departments of Education, Social Services, Public Health, Children and Families and Developmental Services; the Insurance Department, the Board of Education and Services for the Blind, the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired and the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

Birth to Three Interagency Coordinating Council consists of representative members appointed by the governor. The council's role is to advise and assist the lead agency in the implementation of the birth to three system. The council is comprised of: six (at least 20%) parents of children with disabilities age 12 or younger, two legislators, one person representing training of personnel, one person who is a representative of the American Academy of Pediatrics, five persons who are providers of early intervention services, nine persons from the participating state agencies.

D. References

Federal Law and Regulation

Part C of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
34 CFR 303 (Sections 303.1 to 303.204, inclusive)

Connecticut General Statutes

Sections 17a-248 to 17a-248g, inclusive

Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies

Sections 17a-248-1 to 17a-248-14, inclusive

Connecticut Birth to Three Procedures Manual

E. Attachments

None